

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 /023 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9132

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PASS: DHEW/PHS/CDC - MR. NAJJAR AND DR. L.S. FARER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO IN

SUBJECT: DHEW/PHS/CDC SFCP PROJECT 01-328-C "TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION
TRIAL" - AMENDMENT NO. 6

REF: STATE 257930 NEW DELHI 10122

1. THE GOI MINISTRY OF FINANCE NEW SFC CLEARANCE COMMITTEE DID NOT APPROVE SUBJECT PROJECT FOR US FUNDING THROUGH SFC. THE PROJECT WAS SENT TO MOF FROM ICMR THROUGH MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SEVERAL MONTHS AGO FOR FINAL CLEARANCE WITH JUSTIFICATION THAT THIS PROJECT WAS ESSENTIAL TO CONTINUE WITH US ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, THE SFC COMMITTEE SENT THE PROJECT BACK TO ICMR INDICATING THAT THIS WAS NOT ESSENTIAL FOR US ASSISTANCE AND WOULD BE FUNDED BY THE GOI OUT OF THE RS. 20 MILLION SPECIAL RESEARCH FUND. THIS FUND WAS ESTABLISHED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING RESEARCH PROJECTS THAT, ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE WOULD ONLY REQUIRE RUPEE, AND NOT OUTSIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

WE HAVE PROTESTED THIS TO THE ICMR INDICATING THAT THE PROJECT HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE UPHS/CDC FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS AND NOW AS THE FINAL PHASE OF THE PROJECT IS UNDERWAY THE CDC HAS BEEN CUT OUT OF THE PICTURE AND HAS NO FORMAL MEANS OF OBTAINING THE FINAL RESULTS OR HAVING ANY INPUT INTO THE PLANNING AND PROGRESS OF THE FINAL PHASE OF THE PROJECT.

DR. GOPALAN FEELS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE CDC FUND THE FINAL PHASE OF THE PROJECT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO GOPALAN HE WAS COUGHT IN THE MIDDLE AND

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AS THE PROJECT HAD TERMINATED NEEDED THE FUNDS IN A HURRY TO

ASSURE CONTINUATION. HE ALSO ADMITTED ASKING WHO TO REMAIN ACTIVE
IN THE PROJECT FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

GOPALAN SUGGESTED THAT HE MAKE ALL RESULTS OBTAINED THIS YEAR
AVAILABLE TO CDC AND ACMR WOULD AGAIN SEND THE PROJECT BACK TO
THE MOF FOR APPROVAL OF US SFC FUNDING FOR NEXT YEAR WITH FURTHER
JUSTIFICATION.

THE EMB, SCI/OFFICERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH
OFFICIALS OF THE MOF TO POINT OUT THE SPECIAL NATURE OF THIS
PROJECT TO CONTINUE WITH US COOPERATION.

THIS CAN BE TAKEN UP AGAIN DURING THE PROPOSED VISIT OF MR. NAJJAR
OF CDC TO INDIA IN EARLY DECEMBER.

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